

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

EDUCATION MINISTER HONOURS LOCAL TEACHER

MACKENZIE – Mackenzie elementary principal Janet Williams was one of 14 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence recipients recognized today by Education Minister Shirley Bond during Education Week.

"Janet is a wonderful example of the high calibre of teachers in this province," said Bond. "Janet's passion for education has provided so many enriching educational opportunities for her students, like the school writing contest and mentoring program."

Williams, formerly a social studies teacher at Mackenzie secondary, was recognized for inspiring her colleagues to use technology more readily in their classrooms, facilitating student to student mentoring and for being the driving force behind the school's writing contest. Her review entitled "Students informed, motivated by Challenging McWorld" was recently published in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Monitor.

"All of the teachers in School District 57 do a tremendous job, but Janet has demonstrated tremendous leadership for both her students and her colleagues," said Prince George-North MLA Pat Bell. "Understanding how to use technology is becoming an increasingly important part of our society and by encouraging other teachers to use technology in the classroom, Janet has helped many students get a head start with their education."

"In her role as a teacher, and now principal, Janet consistently challenges her students to become responsible and active citizens in their community, both locally and globally, and provides genuine opportunities to accomplish this," said Prince George school board chair Lyn Hall. "We are very lucky to have educators such as Janet in our district, who are so committed to our students and their achievement."

As a teacher, Williams is able to tell stories, recreate past events, stir up emotion and instill in her students the sense of change, voice and citizenship because of the inspiration she received from her Grade 6/7 teacher Ms. D. Burns in Thunder Bay, Ontario. As well as being a passionate educator, Williams has a love for learning. In 2002, she travelled to Ottawa and worked on Parliament Hill for a week at the Institute of Parliamentary Democracy and travelled to Montréal to the Historica Institute, where she walked along a War of 1812 Battle site, stood inside the barracks of Fort Henry and dined at the birthplace of John A. MacDonald.

Janet Williams is among 14 B.C. educators who received the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. During Education Week 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell will announce the first-ever recipients of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence.

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